

Please replace the first and second full paragraphs on page 3, starting at line 3, with the following paragraphs:

F² Especially advantageous is the surface treatment of one or more band-shaped substrates, which are turned while changing their direction of movement at least once. The substrates restrict the discharge region, at least on the one hand, by means of a surface region that lies before the turn in the direction of the band movement, and on the other hand, by means of a surface region that lies after the turn in the direction of the band movement. In this way, the surfaces of the band-shaped substrate to be treated pass the discharge zone at least twice each time the band is fed. A surface treatment made much more intense in this way permits an advantageous increase in the rate of movement.

The electric discharge preferably involves a discharge in the region of the hollow-cathode discharge. By this, according to the invention, it is also understood to mean a discharge in the transition region between hollow-cathode discharge and normal discharge. The entire substrate, which can be at ground potential, thereby forms the cathode. An anode, which is at a positive potential with respect to ground, is located as a counter-electrode in an appropriately selected site in the apparatus, preferable at the edge of the gas discharge. Even with a microwave-activated discharge, a hollow-cathode discharge can be constructed. The plasma then forms a "virtual" anode.

Please replace the last full paragraph on page 4, starting at line 25, with the following paragraph:

Substrate 1 can be grounded or connected to the ungrounded output of a voltage source such as that shown in Fig. 1. The voltage between substrate and a plasma formed by the electric discharge is preferably between one volt (V) and 3000 V, more preferably, between 100 V and 1000 V. Pulsed DC voltages with a pulse frequency between ten kHz and 100 kHz can also be considered as DC voltages. When low-frequency AC voltages are used, the frequency is preferably between 50 Hz and 60 Hz, and with intermediate-frequency AC voltages preferably between ten kHz and 100 kHz. High-frequency AC voltages preferably have frequencies between one MHz and 50 MHz. Instead of, or in addition to, supplying power with a voltage source, it